

REMARKS

Claims 5, 10, and 14-16 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 10, and 14-16 are amended upon entry of this paper. These amendments add no new material and are clearly supported on page 2 of the specification. Applicants hereby request reconsideration and further examination.

Claim 5 stands objected to because of informalities. Claim 5 is rewritten to overcome this objection, and Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 is now in proper form with respect to the deficiencies noted in the Office Action. The change to claim 5 is entered at Applicant's initiative in order to place the claim in more proper form, i.e. to correct a typographical error.

1. Claims 5, 10, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakano (JP03-48874a).

Claims 5, 10 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakano (JP03-48871[[4]]a). Claims 5, 10 and 16 have been amended to more particularly claim the invention which includes a damping pad attachable to the charger body such that said damping pad contacts the at least one corona wire proximate the terminal end. Applicants have added the additional words "proximate the terminal end" to help clarify that the invention is for a dampener that is located at the terminal end of the corona wire so that it does not interfere with the charge field.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner specifically note where Nakano teaches this limitation since the Applicants believe that the cleaner described by Nakano moves across the wires when cleaning is needed and can not be present when the corona wire is creating a charge field. In fact the Nakano abstract describes a "cleaning member of the respective wires for transfer and separation [wires] 7 and 8. The abstract continues to state that the element 1a (similar to the examiner referenced 1b) is not a dampening pad but a "rubbing member 1a" supported in "supporting member 2a" and the "moving member 5a."

One skilled in the art would understand that this is a cleaning apparatus that could not function as a dampener during operation because it actually cleans the wires when the wire is not in use. The charger would not be effective if a cleaning pad was sliding across it while it was trying to generate a uniform charge field. One skilled in the art would understand that these are mutually independent functions and devices.

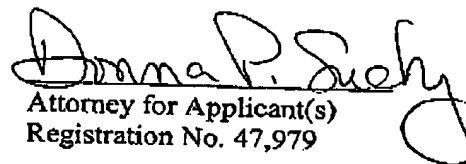
Figures 1-4 of Nakano support the above discussion of the abstract. The drawings clearly show a cleaning member in the center portion of the wires, to clean the wires while the charger is, by necessity, not in operation because the charger could not function as a cleaner while the charger was operational since the presence of a cleaner would prevent the charger from creating an uniform charger needed to operate effectively. One knowledgeable in the art would also understand that the material that would be effective as a cleaner would not be effective as a dampener for a delicate corona wires described in the present invention since they have a diameter of only a few mil. In the absence of any prior art discloses that actually describes a damping pad and attachable to the charger body such that said damping pad contacts the at least one corona wire proximate the terminal end, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection on this basis is in error and request that it be withdrawn.

2. Claims 14-15 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Imai (JP54-104833a).

Claims 14-15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over Imai because Imai also describes a cleaner that could not be used as a dampening pad as claimed in the present invention. Imai clearly shows and describes a cleaner roller 10 that actually reciprocates across the wires when the charger is not in operation. Then the cleaner is moved out of the way with the handle 12 so that the charger can function as a charger. Applicants repeat the arguments presented with respect to claim 5, 10 and 16 above, and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 14-15 on this basis and, in view of the amendments made to these claims, be withdrawn.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 10 and 15-16 are allowable in their present form and hereby request such allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.